

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 remain present in this application.

The specification and claims 1-4 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements were submitted in the above-identified application on September 4, 2003 and November 3, 2003. Notification of receipt of these Information Disclosure Statements as well as consideration of the documents cited therein by the Examiner are respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to by the Official Draftsperson. Attached herewith are corrected formal drawings which should address these objections raised by the draftsperson. Withdrawal of all drawing objections and approval of the attached formal drawings are respectfully requested.

The specification stands objected to for minor informalities. The specification has been revised and the spelling of "deviding" has been corrected to --dividing-- throughout. Withdrawal of any objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The claims have also been amended to address the objections raised by the Examiner. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims should remain in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached herewith.

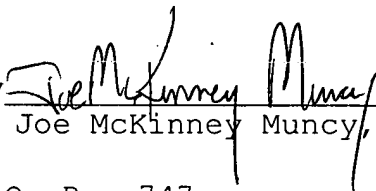
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Appl. No. 09/429,080

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

(Rev. 09/30/03)